

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES AUGUST 8, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:30 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance

Division 1

Vince Lucchesi, Alternate for Bobby Pierce
Anthea Hansen, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate for Ed Pattison

Division 2

Justin Diener, Alternate for Lon Martin
Ross Franson, Director
William Bourdeau, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director

Division 4

Aaron Baker, Alternate for John Varela
Richard Santos, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director

Division 5

Allison Febbo, Director

Friant Representatives

Jason Phillips, Representative

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer (via ZOOM)
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician
Jaime McNeill, Engineering Manager (via ZOOM)

Others in Attendance

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Vincent Gin, Valley Water
Brett Miller, San Benito County W.D.

Jordyn Vannorsdel , Water Wise
 Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
 Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
 John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
 John Varela, Valley Water (via ZOOM)
 Jeff Cattaneo, San Benito County W.D. (via ZOOM)
 Kristin Olsen, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
 Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
 Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)
 Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)
 Don Wright, Water Rights (via ZOOM)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cannon Michael and roll was called.

2. Board to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No additions or corrections.

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. Agenda Items 4-7: Board to Consider: a) July 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Treasurer’s Report, and d) Acceptance of Staff Reports.

On a motion of Director William Bourdeau, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board accepted the July 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Financial & Expenditures Reports, Treasurer’s Report, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Phillips
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ACTION ITEMS

5. Agenda Item 8: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Approval of Adjustment to Water Year 2024 OM&R Water Rates and Separate Billing of Project Use Energy (PUE) True-Up According to Benefits.

Director of Finance Raymond Tarka provided a brief summary of the changes that would be affecting rates, which included 1) the increase to south-of-Delta ag allocation from 40% to 50%, 2) the revised MOU with Friant, which includes the amended OM&R cost recovery plan with revisions to cost

sharing arrangements and additional cost pools, and 3) revised repayment schedules for the Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewind Project. Tarka reported that separate billing will be completed to cover the cost of the PUE true up using interim final accountings for water years 2022 and 2023.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board approved the adjustment to Water Year 2024 OM&R Water Rates and separate billing of Project Use Energy (PUE) True-Up according to benefits. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Phillips
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract, Execution of Professional Services Agreement with SANDIS Engineering for DMC Subsidence Utility Locating and Mapping Services, and Related Expenditure of Up to \$2.14M from the DWR Subsidence Correction Project Grant Funds, and CEQA Exemption.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item and then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeill. McNeill provided additional information on the scope of work related to the contract with SANDIS Engineering. McNeill reported that the proposed expenditure of up to \$2,140,000 will be funded entirely by the non-reimbursable DWR grant for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project. McNeill reported that the existing agreement is for \$22.6M of which \$6.6M has been invoiced to date

On a motion of Member Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Member Aaron Baker, the Committee adopted the resolution authorizing award of contract, execution of Professional Services Agreement with SANDIS Engineering for DMC Subsidence Utility Locating and Mapping Services, and related expenditure of up to \$2.14M from the DWR Subsidence Correction Project Grant Funds, and CEQA Exemption. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Phillips
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

7. Agenda Item 10: Ratification of Execution of Task Order with EKI Environment and Water, Inc. for Technical Support Services and Related Expenditure of \$131,000 from the FY2025 SGMA Northern Delta-Mendota Region Fund.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that staff is seeking ratification of the execution of an additional task order with EKI Environment and Water Inc. and related expenditure of \$131,000,

which resulted in an amount exceeding \$200,000 for technical support services for Fund 64. Petersen reported that the technical support will assist Northern Delta-Mendota Region SGMA participants with development of a pumping reduction plan required for SGMA compliance. Petersen reported that the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee voted to authorize execution of the Task Order and expenditure of \$131,000 on July 3, 2024. Petersen reported that in order to allow work to proceed, which must be complete by October 31, 2024, the Task Order was executed prior to the August 8, 2024 Board Meeting, and staff is seeking ratification of this action by the Board.

On a motion of Alternate Director Chris White, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board ratified execution of the Task Order with EKI Environment and Water, Inc. for technical support services and related expenditure of \$131,000 from the FY2025 SGMA Northern Delta-Mendota Region Fund. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

8. Agenda Item II: Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation.

- a. H.R. 5770 (Neguse), Water Monitoring and Tracking Essential Resources (WATER) Data Improvement Act (support)
- b. H.R. 8308 (Harder), Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2024 (support)

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on legislation and answered questions from Board members. On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Bill Diedrich, the Board adopted staff recommendation for support position on H.R. 5770, and H.R. 8308 Legislation. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

REPORT ITEMS

9. Agenda Item I2: Report on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed documents included in the packet, and provided updates related to federal staffing, the consultation on Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP and the Trinity Division consultation, ESA and CESA listings, the Water Resources Development Act, the

Farm Bill, and the federal appropriations process. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Additional information was provided by consultant Kristin Olsen.

10. Agenda Item 13: Executive Director’s Report.

- a. **Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project (LTO)** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there was a public scoping meeting regarding Reclamation’s Draft EIS for LTO last night in Los Banos, and thanked those that attended.
- b. **Planning Committee** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that he has been coordinating with Divisions to appoint members to the Planning Committee. Barajas reported that the initial plan is to have the first meeting next month after the Finance & Administration Committee meeting.
- c. **PUE Overage** – Executive Director Federico Barajas has reached out to CVPWA regarding support for pursuing different PUE cost recovery methodologies going forward.
- d. **BIL Application Process** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Authority submitted two applications last month, and there is ongoing coordination between Reclamation and Authority staff.

11. Agenda Item 14: Chief Operating Officer’s Report

- a. **Delta-Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie (DCI)** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that as of last night the Authority staff was able to test and bring online three of the units at the DCI, and the fourth was brought online this morning. Arroyave reported that Reclamation, Authority consultants, and Authority staff have determined that the root cause of the arc flash incident at the Intertie was the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), which has been replaced.

12. Agenda Item 15: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced Liz Kiteck from the Central Valley Operations Office (CVO) of the Bureau of Reclamation. Kiteck provided updates regarding CVP storage, operations, and the latest forecasts. Kiteck answered questions throughout her presentation.

13. Agenda Item 16: Committee Reports.

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Chair William Bourdeau reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee

met and addressed agenda items.

- c. **O&M Technical Committee** – Chair Chris White reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.

14. Agenda Item 17: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)** – No report.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet.
- c. **Farm Water Coalition (FWC)** – Mike Wade provided a brief overview of the report included in the packet.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – Director Allison Febbo provided a brief update on upcoming meetings including the ACWA conference December 2-5, 2024.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the packet includes the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee meeting with detailed information on Blueprint activities.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee meeting includes detailed information on SJV CAP.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen provided a brief report.

15. Agenda Item 18: Board Member Reports.

Director Joe Tonascia introduced Brett Miller, who is San Benito County Water District’s new Interim Manager of Administration, Finance and Business Services.

16. Agenda Items 19-20: Closed Session Report.

After allowing an opportunity for public comment, Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:02 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:39 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

17. Agenda Item 21: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
No report.

18. Agenda Item 22: Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.